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Welcome the Belgian Commission.

To-day the official commission from Belgium will be received by the Mayor of New York and make the acquaintance of representatives of our citizens. First of the allied nations to feel the shock of war, Belgium is the last—save Japan, whose commissioners are now on the way to Washington—to make official appeal for cooperation and assistance from our Government. But even though they are late the commissioners may be sure of the heartiest response.

Belgium first challenged the admiration of the world by its defiance of Germany, then compelled world-wide gratitude by giving that defiance such practical effect that the onrush of the German armies was checked in season. That Paris was saved and the German campaign wrecked in its first month was due to the determined assertion of Belgian sovereignty over its own territory and to the loyalty with which the Belgian people upheld the dictum of King Albert, "Belgium is a nation, not a highway."

Looking back after the experience of three years of war of unparalleled ferocity the moral grandeur, the magnificent intrepidity of that immediate Belgian defiance gains in lustre and in glory. Not unwittingly did Belgium make the choice between a prudent poltroonery and a gallant insistence upon her rights. Her rulers knew well enough the size of the odds against which they had to contend. They might conceivably have hearkened to the honeyed words of the Kaiser, offered a perfunctory resistance at the frontier, and then thrown open their highways to German legions. By so doing they might have averted from their people most of the suffering that has since fallen upon them. But they would have given up their national existence in the act. By this time the war would probably have been over, with Germany in a position to dictate terms. Belgium would have been the first German spoil of victory. The nation which had no respect for the scrap of paper that had guaranteed Belgian neutrality would have had less for its own promises made to secure a free passage for its raid on France. Belgium chose wisely, but the fact does not in the slightest degree detract from the magnificent courage which her defiance of Germany required.

In welcoming to-day the envoys of Belgium, New York is moved at once by sympathy for their country's suffering and admiration for its gallantry. It has been tried as by fire and not found wanting.

Need of Transportation Facilities in Alaska.

After an investigation extending over several weeks into the traffic conditions, railroad construction and coal deposits of Alaska, HENRY MEYER, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, says that the railway from Seward northward to the Matanuska coal fields should be completed with all possible haste.

The special need emphasized is that the building of the missing links will make available a great supply of fuel at present required for our industries. The road will besides furnish transportation into the interior that is so necessary to the development of the Territory. The resources of Alaska are furnishing some great surprises as the country is "discovered," and with improved traffic facilities its great wealth of production could be distributed over the Territory and sent south to the Pacific coast States.

We are so familiar with the reports of Alaska's stores of gold and copper that we have overlooked its agricultural possibilities. The history of the development of the Rocky Mountain States is being repeated in Alaska, Montana, California and Arizona at first attracted pioneers by their mineral wealth. To-day farming is carried on with rich results in Montana and Arizona, and California is one of the great agricultural States of the Union. The day of Klondike rushes is past in Alaska and the Territory is now turning to the development of the riches of its soil.

The farming area of Alaska is as large as the combined total area of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania. They raise lettuce and strawberries

In Alaska as fine as are grown in the States. Potatoes of the Matanuska Valley weigh a pound and a half and turnips and rutabagas twelve to fourteen pounds apiece. The weather conditions were milder last winter in Seward than they were in New York. Though the winters are cold the summers in most of Alaska are warm. In fact, one can no more speak of Alaska as a whole than of the United States as a whole.

Now that we are taking stock of what is economical and essential in diet the agricultural development of Alaska is worth consideration. Shipments of fruits and hardy vegetables have already been made to the Pacific States. The great difficulty in the past has been lack of transportation. When this is remedied, as the Department of the Interior hopes that it soon will be, we shall have still further reason to be proud of "Seward's Arctic Polar Bear Preserve."

Ancients of Tammany Hall.

In the news stories of the defection in Tammany Hall the reference to Seward THOMAS E. RUSH as the "oldest district leader" must bring a sad smile to the face of the Hon. BILL DALTON, the real dean of the organization's executive committee. DALTON has been a district leader since 1890, when he succeeded RICHARD J. SULLIVAN as the executive member for what was then the Fifteenth Assembly district.

CHARLES F. MURPHY is far ahead of RUSH in seniority. It is twenty-five years since EDDIE HAGAN, dying, willed the leadership of the Gas House district to his young and ambitious friend. True, there was a period after MURPHY's accession to the leadership of the Hall when his brother JACK was titular leader of the district, but that meant only another vote for the family in the executive committee. The present boss has been at the head of the organization since 1902, a year before RUSH became a district leader.

THOMAS F. MCAVOY, who is grouped with MURPHY and FOLEY as the Big Three of the Hall, has held a place on the executive committee since 1898, five years longer service than the man who contends his son's place on the Democratic Judiciary ticket.

Except for the year after his defeat by BILL DEWEY, FRANK J. GOODWIN has been a leader—by grace of Representative THOMAS F. SMITH—since the fall of 1900, when he defeated JOHN C. SHEEHAN.

TOM FOLEY beat PADDY DIVER in 1901 and has never since left the throne of the Second district. JAMES J. HAGAN has been the Democratic boss of his district since 1902, when he put JOHN R. NIXON on the shelf. JOHN F. AHEARN and P. JOSEPH SCULLY have been leaders—sharing one district, as do DALTON and DOOLING—so long that the Seamen Street Historical Society would have to dig deep in its records to find out just when they came to power.

The youngest of the old group of leaders is THE MCMILLANS, whose VAN DYKE beard has been the orfame of the West Forties since he routed GEORGE WASHINGTON PLUNKETT a dozen years ago.

All Irish, these oldsters, although some of them, like AHEARN, live in districts which are otherwise long since deserted. All getting old too except MCMILLANS, who has not found but is eternal youth. All, or most of them, getting tired, except perhaps MCAVOY, of the dulness of being out of power.

Two Scoundrels Among Many Honest Men.

It took nine days to bring CHENEY and BRANFORD, bribe taking members of Exemption Board 99, to trial and pleas of guilty. They will have two years for repentance in Atlantic penitentiary, a period too short, but the limit prescribed by the law. Their conduct was as atrocious as it was untypical. They occupy an unenviable eminence in crime. So far they are the only members of exemption boards in this city to be convicted of abusing their powers, and the speed with which they have been brought to punishment is likely to correct the attitude of any other scoundrel who has been tempted to sell favoritism in the examination of candidates for the national army.

Generally the men selected to pass on conscripts have proved honest and devoted. There have been few complaints of inequity in the administration of the law. It would be surprising if all the officials involved in its operation should prove equally competent, but it is satisfactory to know that so far only two of them have been found selling their decisions.

Build Airplanes, Not Discuss Them.

Germany has turned the dismantled Zeppelin works at Friedrichshafen into an airplane factory. The great ships of the air are being abandoned like the great ships of the sea. The wasps of the air and the vipers of the sea, the swift, savage airplane and the stealthy, silent submarine, are in war's spotlight today.

It is reported that a new type of airplane being made at Friedrichshafen is equipped to emit great clouds of smoke, forming a screen to shield it from the assaults of an enemy. This is the latest novelty in the aircraft line to be announced, though it has been apparent for some weeks that every country was building new types. As a rule the development has been in the direction of bigger machines carrying heavier or more guns and with an extended cruising radius. This is a radical reversal of the line of development which in the first two years of the war seemed to be the fixed tendency. Then the whole effort seemed to be away from the heavy triplane and bombing machines toward

the light, easily maneuvered fighting and scouting machines—the Fokkers, Bleriot, Vickers, Nieuports.

The sudden reversal of plan is to some degree due to the failure of the allied armies and navies to get at the heart of German defence. The world waxed very weary of witnessing all the suffering entailed by war falling upon the peoples of the Entente. But to carry the war back to the German lines, into the German territory, no pathway offered except the air. To attack Kiel or Wilhelmshaven by sea the British naval authorities declined madness. To break through the German lines, even at the points where they are closest to the boundary, and to carry the war into the Fatherland has been proved to be impossible. Only the air offers a way.

To meet this situation, to grasp the aerial opportunity, to seize the mastery of the air, all the belligerents are building aircraft—beyond doubt the Germans most feverishly of all. In this struggle the United States ought to be the dominant, the determining factor. Since our appropriation of \$340,000,000 for aircraft there has been silence concerning the methods of its expenditure, the types of craft we are to build, the rate of progress in their construction. The SUN mentions this silence to applaud it warmly.

Silence and swift work are what is wanted from those entrusted with the construction of the American air fleet. The country will bear with the one-eyed eagle as it is for intelligence—if it can be assured of the other.

Two Advertisements.

In reading an advertisement put out by the Municipal Civil Service Commission the thought occurs that a young man with the qualifications that are demanded ought to make a good soldier.

"SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS."

"Salary, \$900 to \$1,050.

"21 to 45 years of age, who are familiar with methods of making rescues from drowning and resuscitation; ability to teach beginners and advanced swimmers all strokes of swimming, floating and diving. Applications received at Room 1400, Municipal Building, until August 31 at 4 P. M."

In the paper in which that advertisement appeared was another call for help, not uttered by the city but by a business enterprise. The last sentence of it is interesting:

"WANTED: A COPY AND SERVICE MAN."

"An important New York advertising agency would like to hear from a solid, substantial man of experience and demonstrated capacity. Only those of good health, good habits, good character and good ability need apply. Must be above age of conscription and have a clean record."

It may be that the Civil Service Commission is prevented by its rules from taking the patriotic precautions that the business house evidently has adopted. Without adversely criticizing what may appear to be a "business as usual" attitude on the city's part, it is pleasant to note that private establishments considerably past the country's needs ahead of their own wants.

"Come Back at Two o'clock."

A reporter put this question to Judge Hylan:

"Will you run on a ticket with a pro-German? I refer to Representative HENRY BACKUS, candidate of your party for Borough President in the Bronx. While in Congress he voted against tabling the McLemore resolution."

To this Judge Hylan replied as follows:

"I'll answer that question. Come back at 2 o'clock and I'll have it ready for you."

This, perhaps, is a sign of the judicial temperament. There must be deliberation, perhaps consultation. How would the author of the "MURPHY ON CONTRACTS" answer such a question? What precedents are to be found in the works of Professor MCCOOK?

Can any one imagine a reporter asking JOHN PURROY MITCHELL a question like that and being told to "come back at 2 o'clock?"

Not unless it was then 1:59 1/2.

Fifty-six Years Ago.

Two generations have almost passed since they whose survivors have assembled in Boston for their annual reunion quit their ordinary employments and began the grim work that ended at Appomattox. That among them are some still fit for formal parade testifies to the youthfulness of the cohorts that defended the country from '61 to '65, and solved the problem that had divided its councils from the day its independence was won. Their refusal to heed the solicitations of their friends who would spare them unnecessary exertion reveals their spirit, unbroken by years and supporting them to the last in what they conceive to be a duty and a high privilege.

Like their successors in the armies of the country they preserved and united, those men fought not only the enemy arrayed before them but also misguided and insidious foes whose despicable work was done at home. In the days of that other great test there were weaklings behind the lines who cried "Peace" where there could be no peace, who called for compromise, who demanded statements of purpose, and trickily gave aid to the foe while protesting that their motives were pure and elevated. There were spies and pacifists, fools and gulls, in the population in the civil war; and they were able to annoy and to embarrass the Government in the prosecution of its work.

But then as now the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants recognized the necessities of the struggle, and gave loyal support to the men in the field. True, the Confederacy had no such machine for the creation of diversions as our enemy now possesses; as Americans the Southerners were incapable of erecting such a structure of deceit as Prussian efficiency has reared. But there was a great sympathy for the South in every Northern State, flowing from ties of blood and old associations, and its natural manifestations were as dangerous as any demonstration Kaiserism can buy. Yet it could not seriously or permanently impair the design of the majority, or shake the determination of the Government. Neither the cry "Let the erring sisters go" nor the slogan "The war is a failure" accomplished its design, menacing though the effect appeared at times.

Thus we may draw from the Grand Army encampment and the history it reveals faith and encouragement. The internal and external dangers of the civil war were overcome by the devotion of a population that withstood the gravest discouragements and bore patiently the most serious hardships, upheld by the consciousness that its sacrifices were made for justice and the right. So it will be to-day; and all the paid agents of the Kaiser, unscrupulous and industrious though they are, backed by their gulls and the folly stricken adherents of an impossible pacifism, cannot distort the issue of our war against the Prussianized German Empire or blind the eyes of patriots to the purpose for which the sons and grandsons of the veterans of '61 offer their blood.

MORTGAGE LOANS.

What Is Proposed for the Relief of Lenders and Borrowers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I wrote from comments in the newspapers that they are under the impression that a bill has been introduced in the Legislature covering a moratorium on real estate mortgages. I have distinctly stated repeatedly that no such bill has been introduced. It is impossible at this extraordinary session to present such a measure without a special message from the Governor. As far as I am informed, the Governor has no intention of sending any message upon controversial matters. Any bill covering this subject, even remotely, must otherwise be deferred until the regular session of the Legislature.

Having been importuned by property owners, small and large, from all over the city, I brought up the subject of remedial legislation for the purpose of retaining public opinion, and especially of arresting the attention of the people prior to the new issue of the Liberty bonds. The remedy which I suggested was one to defer the prosecution of foreclosure suits until after the war. It was meant to apply only to the principal debt and in no sense to a failure to pay interest or taxes. If such a bill were passed it would necessarily act retroactively upon existing mortgages, and therefore could not in any way be affected by an attempt to call in these mortgages. The passage of such a bill would make mortgage money sufficiently plentiful to cover other mortgages.

There is nothing at all novel in the suggestion, even in this country, and where more drastic acts have already been passed in several States, especially with reference to the property of soldiers and sailors who are eagerly fighting for their country. There was no discussion of a general moratorium because the need for it was not apparent. And if the discussion, aroused by my suggestion, has succeeded in awakening a realizing sense of patriotic duty on the part of the lender, I shall rest content without any attempt to force legislation. If, however, the situation becomes acute, at the next session of the Legislature I shall do what I can to meet it.

It has been stated that the borrower would be in a better position if he paid off his mortgage. This is certainly true. But where is he to get the money?

The great life insurance companies have done much to develop real estate in the city of New York. They have, however, advanced loans, provided real or fictitious. Should they or other institutions be permitted now to destroy the very system which they have established, at a time when rentals are higher and real estate intrinsically better than they have been for the past few years?

We are facing a new \$5,000,000,000 issue of Liberty bonds. The total for this year promises to be \$2,000,000,000. I have sought to discover a method whereby both the little property owner and the large loaning institution could properly subscribe for these bonds. I have felt that arrangements could be made whereby mortgages could be given as security for subscriptions for Liberty bonds, and that a borrower being left secure with his mortgage could also subscribe for them. Thus both borrower and lender could buy the bonds and the country would benefit thereby.

Meanwhile it has been in the minds of certain institutions are adopting a policy of refusing to loan further money on mortgage and are calling in existing mortgages wherever possible.

This policy, if persisted in, will cause the very panic in real estate values which the legislature predicted would follow the legislation indicated, and I maintain could not result if it is the proper sort of retroactive legislation. With a loss of property values a loss of tax returns to State and city must naturally follow.

Real estate suffers because it is impossible to get banks to make temporary loans once the mortgage is called in. A merchant can obtain money on his paper, but the value of an equity in real estate is not recognized by the banks. Some emergency banking system should be created whereby such loans can be obtained, at 6 per cent, if necessary, until a mortgage is obtained.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 20.

Tammany needs a Kerensky badly and the Hon. CHARLES MURPHY is a long way from measuring up to the part.

Why not hold that International Socialist conference at Berlin instead of Stockholm? It would save traveling expenses for the only delegates who seem likely to attend.

Because of abusive articles in MAXIM GORKY's paper the Russian Government has offered a law prescribing imprisonment in a fortress for persons insulting the Allied powers, their rulers or Presidents, or their Governments. As coming from a revolutionary Government this law might win the approval of our soap box orators if enacted here.

In other words, Mr. HOOVER says "Waste not, want not," and never before has it been truer that "Wifol waste makes wofol want."

OUR POSTAL SERVICE.

Considering the Distances It Is the Best in the World.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In reply to "H. C." I will say that London has the best postal service in the world. It is only fair to consider, however, that a penny in England is the equal of at least three and a half cents in America. Postage is about the only thing that is as cheap here as in Europe. If the people wished to pay three and a half cents for stamps, undoubtedly the United States post office could give them as good service as in England.

Considering the greater distances mail is carried in America, we have the best service for the money in the world.

PERKINS DOE.

DENVER, COL., AUGUST 18.

Thoughts of a Despondent Prophet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I think old Rome had nothing to offer comparable to the cant and hypocrisy, insincerity and dishonesty which this community has afforded within the past few years. And I believe the public is sick of it—sick unto death. Therefore I venture to predict we are on the eve of a political upheaval. Watch and see!

AN OLD FRIEND OF THE SUN.

BROOKLYN, AUGUST 20.

"On Les Aurs!"

From the London Spectator.
Soldat Jacques Bonhomme inquiet: See you that stretch of shell torn mud spotted with pools of mire. Crossed by a trench and trench and tortured strands of wire. Where splintered pickets reel and sag and leprous trees raise pale and dead. That scow the devil's hunting ground to seek the field my father loved, the field that nursed for my child's child as my fathers did long ago.

See there a mound of powdered stones, all flattened and damp and green with slime—Ere you and I were born there stood a house. A little house and bare. And there a forest that my woman home—That heap of rubble there! The soil of France! Put fields and green that had my blood and bone! Each wound that scars my woman's pride burns deeper than my own.

But yet there is one thing to say—one thing that I would like to say. Whatever lot our bodies know, whatever fate our souls are fated to, we hold the line! We hold it! My fields are no Man's Land. But the good dead defend it and hold it by the hand.

"On les aurs!" See there! and there! soaked trenches of huddled gray! My fields are laid bare—swept by those who the "les aurs" is to be used only by J. H. KNIGHT-ADKIN, Capt. Gloucester.

HONORING THE FLAG.

A Recruiting Officer for Proper Respect Reports Progress.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Major Eagle's timely letter in THE SUN relative to proper respect for the flag merits the thoughtful attention of every patriot not of the maudlin class.

As a veteran soldier and a prospective conscript in this war I step into the ranks back of Major Eagle and look for others to line up and right dress, for I have been mortified to observe the slovenly laxity with which the general public has come to treat "Old Glory."

At the beginning of our war millions of flags were flung to the breeze and left there day and night to fade, be blown to tatters, become entangled and droop in shabby dejection. On many industrial establishments cheap printed flags were tacked at each window frame, and now after months the torn rags remaining flap dementally in sorry display.

Business men, it is said, have a reputation for formal flag raising, holding costly bunting, which, to avoid a few minutes daily labor of a janitor, have never been protected from storm nor taken in at night, and are now discreditable evidence of slothful management.

At residences porch poles have been allowed to warp and bow down in curves of dejection. Thousands of costly cars carry a sickening sheaf of blurred tatters proclaiming the thoughtlessness of an owner who would shiver at the idea of appearing in public in a soiled collar.

The flag has indeed been not only a woman in this picture nor any revered religious emblem broadcast, neither would I make my country's flag a universal exhibit. I would display it with dignity and accord it respectful care.

For weeks I have been active personally, and am glad to say, receiving cordial cooperation from thoughtful, less flag desecrators, in applying by voice and letter to repair or remove damaged flags, and if every one who is interested will constitute himself a color guard and do the same we will see a more general observance of respect to our flag.

Here is a very practical work for our patriotic societies, Sons of Veterans, Spanish War Veterans and Boy Scouts to do, and to any one having time and means I suggest the preparation of a small printed card detailing proper etiquette and respectful treatment of the flag and destruction. These cards to be handed or mailed to our thoughtful friends.

GEORGE W. DAVIDSON.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., AUGUST 20.

TELL THE SOLDIERS.

Some Arrangement for Camp Messengers Bearer Needed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Now that the New York regiments are encamping around New York, would it not be well to have some of the Boy Scouts on duty to carry messages to the men?

As is natural, the mothers, wives, sweethearts and sisters of the boys go out and stand around at the edge of the camp awaiting an opportunity to send messages, letters or packages to their own boys. The kind of thing which the soldiers prevent them crossing the lines, and so they wait and wait until some chance acquaintance among the soldiers passes and will oblige them by looking up the one who is desired.

The other day at Van Cortlandt Park a young girl of 16 and her six-year-old sister stood from 3 o'clock to 4 o'clock waiting to deliver a little bundle to her brother, and near her a pretty girl of 20 stood watching and waiting for a word with her sweetheart.

No one was there to notify the soldier boys of their presence, and they and some of the others, among them being many mothers, grew heartse and weary. A little company of Boy Scouts as messengers would have done yeoman service in attending to the waiting ones. The kind of thing which the soldiers prevent them crossing the lines, and so they wait and wait until some chance acquaintance among the soldiers passes and will oblige them by looking up the one who is desired.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 20.

TRADE BRIEFS.

There is an excellent market for delectable hams in Bordeaux, France. Catalogues should be sent to Consul G. A. Bucklin in that city.

Optical goods, scientific apparatus, books and shoes, haberdashery and woolen and linen goods are in the greatest demand in the district of Russia.

Holland's mat making industry has enlarged and prospered since importations of these supplies from Germany have ceased. The demand for overalls, especially the largest number of mat makers, as rushes for the manufacture of the mats are plentiful there.

At the close of the war there will be a big demand for the manufacture of canvas. American firms who are interested should inquire about the kinds of canvas needed and prepare for a share in the trade.

Soap and scent are in demand in the Balkan market. Catalogues for delectable hams in Bordeaux, France. Catalogues should be sent to Consul G. A. Bucklin in that city.

Consul-General F. W. Golding states that a market exists in Guayaquil, Ecuador, for American automobiles. A list of firms that would take agencies for cars can be examined at the district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 400 Custom House, New York.

Inexpensive shoes of American manufacture are needed in Vera Cruz, Mexico. Catalogues of all kinds of goods made in this country are needed at the consulate in Padang, Sumatra, Dutch West Indies. They should be addressed to Consul Horace J. Dickinson.

Hol's darr wood has been successfully experimented with in the manufacture of dyes and tanning extracts. Company in Wapanucki, Okla., will use the new dye to color khaki cloth.

Table syrup has been produced from molasses by the C. Ledford of San Angelo, Tex. It is reported that the extraction of molasses from the bean is a simple process. There are two crops of beans a year, the average yield per acre being fifty to seventy-five bushels. Molasses beans are also used as fodder for cattle.

Catalogues and prices on hay baling machinery are wanted in Birmingham, Ala. Cans suitable for dried vegetables are needed in Raleigh, N. C.

THE MENINGITIS GERM AND ITS WAR TIME EFFECT.

Assembling of Great Armies Is Peculiarly Conducive to Extraordinary Virulence of Infectious Microbes.

It is well known that microbes undergo changes of vitality and infecting power, and as a rule it is safe to say that the conditions of war time, such as the assembling of great armies in camps, are favorable to the development of the peculiar virulence of these enemies of the recruit. But a recent outbreak of meningitis among French troops in Flanders and Auvergne has displayed the disease in an aspect so strikingly unusual as to prompt the thought that it might have been mistaken for a very ordinary eruption of the skin if French experts had not traced it to its true origin.

It appears from the report published in Paris on the first of this month that there is a phase in which the germ of meningitis is far less deadly than in its usual form, exactly as a row of well worn cannon are less deadly than a row of machine guns turned out by a first rate firm. This impression is certainly contrary to the prevailing opinion, which endows this microbe with unvarying strength, but medical authorities are well acquainted with this mild or, as it were, exhausted type. In fact the French doctors in the Paris medical journal do not hesitate to call it "meningitis fruste," or defaced form of meningitis, by which metaphor they desire to convey the battered and enfeebled condition of the bacillus from the meningitis produced by this germ. Its unusual weakness to the patient are exceedingly commonplace.

In this form the disease shows itself in a slight headache, stiffness of the neck, catarrh of the nose and moderate fever. It is said that in many cases these symptoms are observed without fever, and soldiers are so little affected that they go about their duties as usual. Until lately these symptoms attracted so little attention that doctors were inclined to treat them in a haphazard manner.

Misled by the mildness and ordinary character of the complaint, military surgeons have advanced two explanations of its appearance, affirming that it was an abortive form of meningitis and that the soldiers in whom it showed itself were carriers of germs, but now the French have issued a report in accordance with investigations of epidemic of this kind which shows that this form of meningitis in troops may be recognized by two signs of almost diagnostic and final meaning. These are an abnormally slow pulse and an eruption of the skin like small blisters or vesicles containing a thin watery fluid. Physicians at the front attach great importance to these symptoms.

Soldiers should be fully forewarned by the knowledge that these manifestations are perhaps a warning of a real attack. Apart from this serious bearing of meningitis in this mild and lingering form on the real accuracy of the soldier's meningitis, it is consoling to compare that the risks of having it are comparatively slight. The prevalence of it in Auvergne and in some con-

ditions of the French army is regarded as temporary.

Among other reasons for its appearance, it is not the first that has been emphasized as it should be. One of the first cases was a recruit who had just been inoculated against typhoid fever, and investigation led to the discovery that antityphoid serum had stirred the meningitis germ into passing activity. "This case," says the report, "is not the first that has developed after the injection of antityphoid serum; in fact we have seen another case in which the symptoms of cerebrospinal meningitis began immediately after this injection, but the disease ran its course in a relatively favorable manner and the cure was unusually rapid."

As to this connection between typhoid inoculation and meningitis, it is from the ordinary professional standpoint a very infrequent one. Still it shows what may happen when a medical officer incautiously inoculates a soldier who is a carrier of meningitis germs. They may be stimulated into dangerous activity. The role in France now is to search for these carriers of the microbes of meningitis, who, without suffering from the disease, may transmit it to others. Under these circumstances it may take the mild form or the serious epidemic form. Therefore the systems at the front demand that be distinctly understood that carriers must be found and isolated until the germs have disappeared, and this is accomplished by careful bacteriological examination and by clearly recognizing the symptoms of meningitis "fruste."

It may be said that the danger is very small, but it is one that should not be overlooked in view of the assembling of large bodies of recruits. In addition the fact that there is an effective serum for meningitis should not relax preventive measures. However, it is not this point that physicians are likely to miss, but the fact that there is a form of meningitis in which the antiserum is an imperfect antidote. Luckily, too, the form of meningitis just described is not that for which serum is most needed.

THEY'RE DOING VERY WELL.

A Quantitative Analysis of Mr. Murphy's Fall Styles in Candidates.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A close analysis of the nominations made by the so-called Democratic party of Tammany Hall seems hardly necessary in order to ascertain who are the real participants in the profits of the primary law in Fourteenth street.

John P. Hylan, candidate for Mayor, is given to McCooey. Charles L. Craig, candidate for Comptroller, is the law partner of Senator James A. Foley, the chairman of Tammany Law Committee and Senator from Murphy's own district. Alfred E. Smith, the absent one of them all, is Tom Foley's protégé for President of the Board of Aldermen. For Justice of the Supreme Court, MCAVOY, the other side partner of the Chief, nominates his son, John V., as he is very partial to that kind of political pay.

It will be remembered that the beginning of MCAVOY's leadership was named his brother Frank a City Magistrate, and subsequently had a Tammany Board of Aldermen elect him Recorder to succeed John W. Goff when the latter went on the Supreme Court bench; but the public didn't accept Frank MCAVOY at the following election, and chose Alfred E. Smith, the absent one of them all, is Tom Foley's protégé for President of the Board of Aldermen. For Justice of the Supreme Court, MCAVOY, the other side partner of the Chief, nominates his son, John V., as he is very partial to that kind of political pay.

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